ICE HSI VISA SECURITY PROGRAM

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), through its Visa Security Program (VSP), assigns special agents to diplomatic posts worldwide to conduct law enforcement visa security activities and provide training to Department of State (DOS) offices regarding threats, trends, and other topics affecting visa adjudication

### BACKGROUND

#### Foundation
After the attacks of September 11, 2001, Congress passed the Homeland Security Act of 2002

#### Authorization
Section 428 authorized deployment of DHS officers to diplomatic posts to perform visa security activities

#### Creation
In 2003, VSP was created and first deployed personnel to Saudi Arabia for visa security operations

#### Expansion
VSP has expanded to 41 posts in 28 countries with a mandate to grow to additional visa issuing posts

### PROCESS

VSP utilizes the automated screening capabilities of the Pre-Adjudicated Threat Recognition and Intelligence Operations Team (PATRIOT) to focus on five key activities creating value at posts around the world

#### SCREEN
Using PATRIOT, screen 100% of non-immigrant visa applications at the earliest point of the visa process before DOS

#### VET
Analysts vet applications with derogatory information, using law enforcement, open source, and classified systems

#### COLLABORATE
Agents coordinate with law enforcement, intelligence, and host country partners to maximize investigative efforts

#### RECOMMEND
Produce a unified DHS recommendation to DOS on a subject’s visa eligibility

#### INVESTIGATE
Agents conduct criminal investigations to exploit and disrupt criminal and terrorist organizations

### VALUE

Prior to DOS visa adjudication, VSP annually screens over 2 million applicants at 41 visa issuing posts in 28 countries, creating a technologically advanced investigative window of opportunity and generating the following operational value

#### Whole of Government Effort
Specially-trained HSI special agents collaborate with government partners at post to promote a unified screening and vetting effort, including over 11,000 coordination activities with government entities in FY20. Special agents provide training and advice to consular officers on identified threats to better inform visa adjudication decisions

#### Investigative Advantage
Deployed HSI special agents utilize DHS investigative resources including comprehensive interviews at post and coordination with host government partners to maximize law enforcement and counterterrorism value. Through their investigative efforts, VSP special agents identify and disrupt previously unknown threats posed by transnational terrorist and criminal networks, instead of solely recommending the denial of travel

#### Pre-Adjudication Approach
VSP screening and vetting of visa applicants utilizes PATRIOT, an interagency endeavor with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), to screen 100% of NIV applications against 36 data points prior to DOS adjudication. PATRIOT enables VSP to identify national security and other visa eligibility concerns at the earliest point of an individual’s visa application life-cycle

#### Global Capacity for Growth
HSI uses an established data-driven site selection methodology to guide VSP expansion in a manner that develops the program’s global capacity to protect U.S. national security. HSI is committed to the expansion of VSP operations, maximizing resources domestically and internationally to enhance the program’s investigative efforts abroad